NIAGARA COLLEGE
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NIAGARA NEWS

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Vol. 21, No. 6
Dec. 7, 1990
12 pages

Penalty set for thefts

College administration has reduced the parking permit replacement fee and will penalize those found with stolen or counterfeit permits.

Earlier this year, if a permit was lost or stolen the owner paid $45 to replace it. In effect, the same permit was paid for twice.

"There was feeling that was too steep," Gary LaRose, acting vice-president of administration, said. "We're not asking for the full amount, but we're trying to put some onus on the individual to try to make sure their permit is not stolen....We want to encourage, as much as possible, people to be responsible with their permit."

The penalty for those caught with illegal permits is suspension of parking privileges at the college and possible police action. "There's an obligation to society that we would turn it over to the police...and let them decide what would be done," he said.

Dropping the replacement fee was seen as a more realistic answer to the lost permits problem. Last year a new permit cost $2, but this system was being abused by some students who would claim they had lost their permit and and buy a new one. In actuality, they gave the new permit away or sold it and kept their old one. Bargain-priced permits were being sold and both the college and responsible parkers — who paid full price for their permits — were being cheated.

"That's a very small minority that do this. So in essence, we're trying to protect the majority of the people in a responsible, reasonable manner," he said.

GST credit late for Xmas

Students across the country may be receiving a surprise Christmas gift from the federal government this year in the form of cold cash — but only if the Goods and Services Tax gets by the Senate before Jan.1.

The credit, designed to offset the effects of the GST on low-income Canadians, was to be mailed in December for those who qualified. However, legislative delays mean the cheques will likely not be sent before the Jan. 1 deadline.

Those who have not received a GST credit statement from Revenue Canada should confirm they are registered to receive a credit application form and a tax return from any district taxation office.

The GST credit is calculated on a variety of criteria, including income, marital status, number of dependants and status as a student. The credit,to be sent each quarter, will range between $47.50 and $120.

Power play. No. 9 Niagara Knight, Beth Miller, flies high for a spike but it is all for naught; the Knights lost the tournament 5-0. See story page 10.

Photo by Neville Lewis

Board elects first Niagara member : Bessems

Hugo Bessems, international student adviser, was elected Nov. 5 to the Canadian Bureau for International Education's board of directors. This is the first time a Niagara College staff member has been named to the 21-member committee. The college has been a C.B.I.E. member for the past six years.

The C.B.I.E., founded in 1966, is a non-governmental organization comprising 120 universities, colleges, and Cegeps, as well as numerous schools, and school boards.

C.B.I.E. involves institutional members in a variety of educational projects and programs which bring international students to Canada.

Mr. Bessems said he believes his selection to the board is "quite an honor for myself and Niagara College, especially to be elected by my peers from across Canada." He was quick to thank George Repar, director of planning, research and development, for nominating him. He said he sees having a representative from Niagara College as highlighting the school as well as expanding its role in international education.

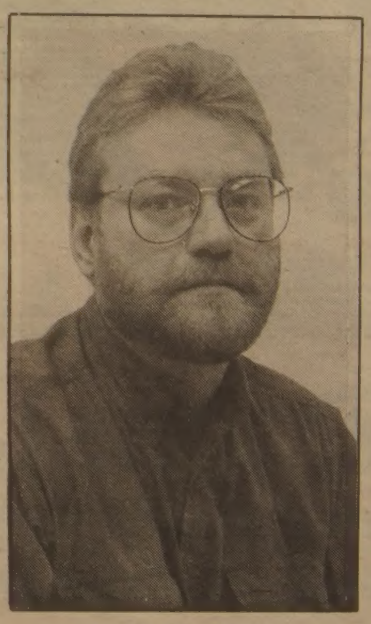
The C.B.I.E. has been a major factor in bringing a large number of students to various Canadian colleges and universities. Niagara College has students from Libya and Lebanon who, under the auspices of this organization, are here to study in both the business administrative and technological fields.

Another C.B.I.E. function is as an advocacy committee. It works to promote the welfare of international students by lobbying governments to amend inefficient policies and practices. Some past issues include differential fees (higher fees for international students which differentiate them from Canadian students on campus), student authorization processing fees, health insurance, on-campus work for international students, and work for spouses of international students.

All funding is provided by donations, membership fees, publication sales (International Education magazine and Synthesis) government grants and fees for scholarship management.

Mr. Bessems said he's looking forward to meeting the task at hand and will take all student concerns or queries to the board of directors meetings held three to four times a year in branch offices in Ottawa and British Columbia.

"I'm working on several proposals to bring additional international students to Niagara College. International education has a lot to contribute to this institution," he said.



HUGO BESSEMS

Season's Best!

Excellent graduate placement

The November-December issue of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges national newsletter reported Niagara College has an over-all placement rate of 87.5 per cent - one of the highest in the Canadian college system.

The standing is based on statistics collected from the 1989 graduating class six months after graduation and represents success in finding full-time employment.

The breakdown by programs follows:applied arts,85.61 per cent; business, 92.38 per cent; communications and academic studies, 75 per cent; community services, 82.20 per cent; computer, electrical, electronics and horticultural, 100 per cent; hospitality and tourism, 97.50 per cent; manufacturing, mechanical and construction, 97.56 per cent; and nursing, 81.97 per cent.

Dismal turnout for Nov. 29 vote

Out of a total of 8,600 full and part-time college students, only 44 exercised their right to vote on Nov. 29.

Elections were held for student and support staff positions on the Board of Governors.

Ralph Martin, social service worker, was elected student board representative.

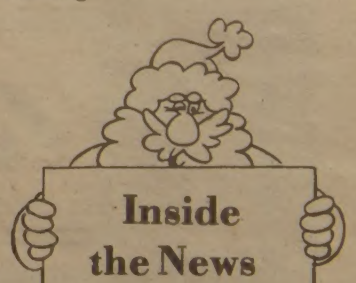
College support staff had a voter turnout of 144. Duncan McDuff, Ontario skills development officer, was elected support staff board representative by 15 votes.

OSAP money in Jan.2

Students whose OSAP money has seeped away will be relieved to know winter term cheques and/or loans will be available the first day of classes in January.

Elaine Spark, financial aid administrator, said Ontario Student Assistance Program recipients, who collected financial aid for the fall term, can pick up their cheques and/or loans in the office from Jan. 2 onward.

Mrs. Spark said students must bring their fall term transcripts in order to receive winter term funding.



Inside the News

Our Christmas gift to you

see pages 6-7

Sports

Knights lose games
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GRADUATES

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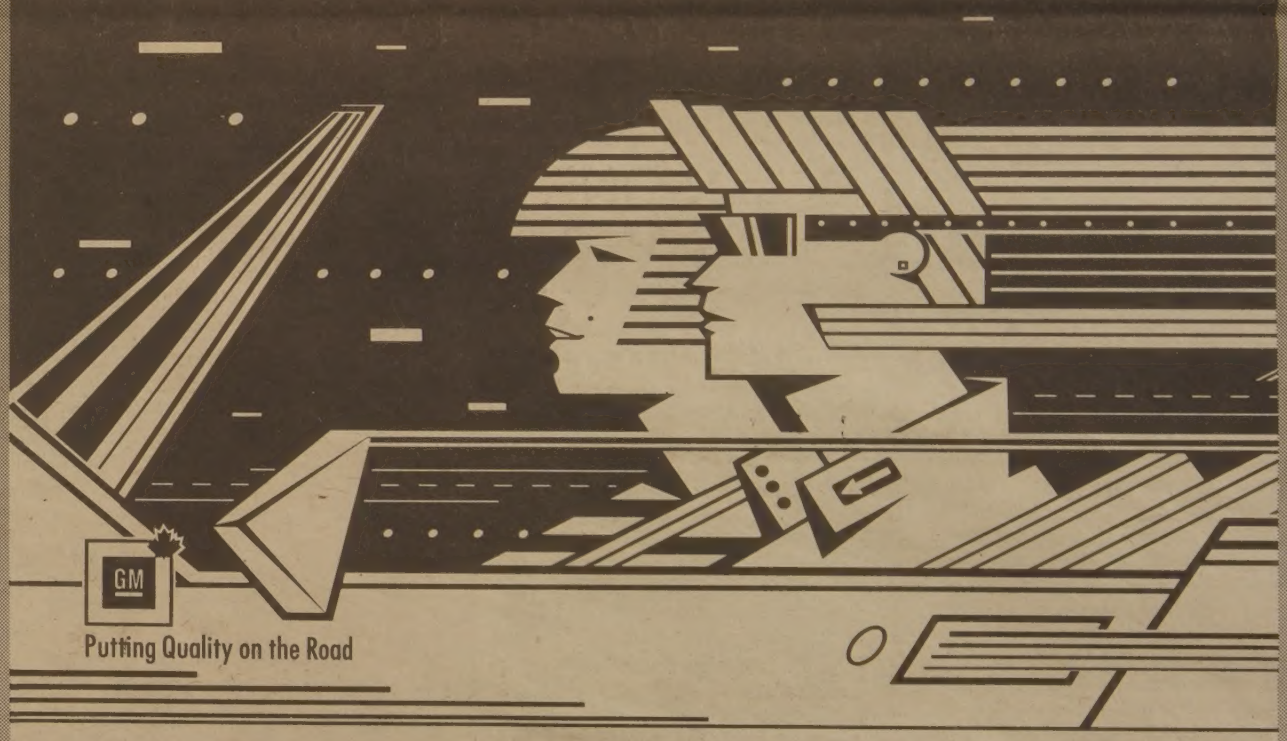
IF YOU'RE GRADUATING FROM A RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CEGEP OR UNIVERSITY BEFORE AUGUST 31, 1991*, YOU QUALIFY FOR THE 1991 GM GRADUATE PROGRAM. JOIN UP AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A $750 DISCOUNT ON THE NEW GM CAR, LIGHT TRUCK OR VAN OF YOUR CHOICE. AND FOR EVEN GREATER VALUE, YOU CAN COMBINE YOUR $750 DISCOUNT WITH OTHER GM AND DEALER DISCOUNTS OR INCENTIVES AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF YOUR PURCHASE. IT'S TOO GOOD TO MISS! IT'S THE BEST PROGRAM OF ITS KIND ON THE MARKET.



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*The 1991 GM Graduate Program is open to all students who graduate during the period September 1, 1988 through August 31, 1991.
†The GM Graduate Program cannot be combined with the GM Employee Purchase Program.

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ERSN donates to 'Gift of Love'

Cathy Martin (left) is presented with food, toys and clothing by Jimmie Pellegrini on behalf of the ERSN class. Cathy accepted the items for the Fort Erie Kinsman's "Gift of Love" drive.

Photo by Diane Foster

During the annual Educational Resources and Special Needs Program Christmas dinner, held by first-year students for staff and students of Niagara College, Friday, Nov. 30, a class presentation of food and toys was made to Fort Erie Kinsman's "Gift of Love" Christmas drive.

Every year the first-year ERSN students throw a Christmas dinner for the second-year ERSN students and staff. "It has been traditional for at least 21 years," Elvira Lukas, program co-ordinator, said. "I'm not really sure when it started, but it was already tradition when I started here."

There was much excitement at this year's candlelight dinner. A variety of delicious foods, served buffet style, was available to tempt even the most finicky tastebuds. The room was cheerily decorated with Christmas lights and a Christmas tree. The Christmas music playing in the background added to the enjoyment. "Preparing the dinner gives the students on-the-job training," Mrs. Lukas said.

Cathy Martin, with Bev Halle, was responsible for the organization of the meal, entertainment, decorating, set-up and clean-up. "We delegated jobs to other first-year students and all worked together to pull it off," she said. "Everyone pitched in; no one person did it."

Annually the ERSN students have a Christmas fundraiser and donate gifts of toys to a charity. "Last year the class drew names and thought of what that person would have liked to play with as a child. The gift was exchanged, then all the gifts were given to a charity," Mrs. Lukas said.

"This year the class decided students would contribute food to food baskets, toys, mittens and clothes because of the great need for them in the community. There has been a lot of publicity for the need of food," Mrs. Lukas said.

To select the community to receive the package, first-year students placed the name of their hometown in a hat. Cathy Martin's hometown, Fort Erie, was drawn. Cathy was presented the food and toys on behalf of the Fort Erie Kinsman's "Gift of Love" Christmas drive.

"Everyone helped with the Christmas drive," Cathy said. "Everyone donated food and gifts."

The dinner was a success with about 80 people enjoying the food. Selections included two turkeys, casseroles, lasagna, stuffed peppers, pasta and green salads, and a variety of mouth-watering desserts. "The girls did a marvelous job. Everything was delicious," Mrs. Lukas said.

The enertainment included a song to the letters C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S and an original poem by Brigitta Verbeaken. The poem was a take-off from "The Night Before Christmas" and "was a take-off on the faculty and the term," Cathy said.

"It was a big hit," Cathy said. "It was enjoyed by all!"

Hotel and restaurant administration students Wayne Duerdon (left) and Don Wood carefully prepare the cream of tomato and potato soup for the "An Evening in Paris" dinner. The dinner, held on Nov. 24, was prepared and promoted by the students and well attended.

Photo by Richard Douglas

Mack holds Career Fair

Mack campus will be the site of a Health Care Career Fair Dec. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m..

Mary Sirotnik, co-ordinator of Year III and curriculum at Mack, said it will be the second career fair held on campus. It will take place in the main hallway.

Janet Fofar, career services officer, described the day as an "information session." She said 16 agencies, including the Armed Forces, Easter seals, and various hospitals, have registered.

Mrs. Sirotnik said the career fair "will give an idea of what's down the road for them (the students)." The agencies bring literature and job applications for students and answer questions.

In the past, the agencies have been impressed by the students' questions. They have said the students seemed knowledgeable and informed, Mrs. Sirotnik said.

"Job placements out of this have been good."

Before the career fairs were held at Mack, agencies made their presentations at the main campus. Mack students complained that holding career fairs, pubs, Student Administrative Council election speeches, and other college events at main campus has made them feel alienated.

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Editorials

Christmas tradition should stress selflessness

Sharing and caring are central Christmas themes we should remember this holiday season. Although the lifestyle of a student is impoverished, we all have hope for future success and prosperity. Not all Canadians are so fortunate.

Many fellow citizens have no place to call home, to hang a stocking, or put up a Christmas tree. They are happy if they are able to eat, or to find a warm place to sleep.

A horrifying number of children live in poverty, not knowing when their next meal will arrive. To them, the story of Santa Claus is just that — a story. No presents, no turkey dinner, no holiday spirit. Just the hope that tomorrow will be a kinder day.

Our rampant consumerism has detrimental effects on our environment, especially at Christmas. We buy wrapping paper when we could use newspapers. Most gifts are overpackaged, filling numerous garbage bags when Christmas Day is finished.

Instead of concentrating on the giving of material goods, give your time to others. Help a neighbor shovel the driveway, distribute goods at a food bank, visit an older person. Give of yourself, not your money.

Joan Greaves

Bah-humbug cynicism Christmas too commercial

The "bah-humbug" brand of cynicism abounds these days. Mention the word "Christmas" and vapid eyes glaze over, sweaty hands clutch hearts, and pulses weaken. "It's so commercial," is the oft-repeated phrase.

Commercialism—a euphemism for Christmas. And yet all that frenzied shopping is really self-imposed masochism. Can't leave anybody out. School teachers. The third best friend. The mailman. The neighbor. The hair stylist. But, hey. No twisted arms here. Just willing fodder for plaza forages and mall reconnoitres.

The savvy person broaches the seasonal subject delicately. "When you were a child, what did you like about Christmas?" Eyes sparkle. Faces soften. Years drop away. The first answer is predictable. "Presents." But then others come.

"Being with family."

"Snowmen and chocolates."

"No school."

"Playing. Just playing."

So for all those people you can't forget. After Eights. Ten boxes. One trip. Try it.

Catherine Denison

Letters to the Editor

School portables filthy filled with dust, grime

Dear Editor:

I take a French elective and each Monday we meet in the portable for a study lab. I am appalled at the filth in the portable. I have been waiting all semester for the room to be cleaned.

Each Monday I hope to be able to sit down without first having to clean the dust and grime off the chair and desk. I was very surprised, the first time I entered this room, to realize that college maintenance does not consider this part of the school property that requires cleaning.

First term is nearly over and no cleaning has been done in this portable yet. I think, as fee-paying students, we should refuse to sit in such filth and demand clean conditions in which to learn.

Diane Foster
Second-year Journalism

Student refutes abuse

Dear Editor:

Re: Editorial of Nov. 23, 1990

I would like to express my concern over the editorial by Joan Greaves, which portrays every student on Ontario Student Assistance Program as spoiled brats "squandering their funds on luxuries."

I'm a student on OSAP and I am barely scraping by. I do not have a new car stereo, let alone a car to put one in, or a new leather coat. I can't go home for Christmas because I don't have enough monev.

It is unfortunate the editors of the Niagara News have nothing better to do than slag their fellow students.

Sincerely,
Audrey Stinnissen

Insight appreciated

Editor's Note: The following letter is in appreciation to a guest speaker.

Dear Dale:

We at Mount Carmel would like to thank you for sharing with us what it is like to have a head related injury. You have opened our eyes more than any book could have on this aspect.

Thank you and best wishes in your future endeavors.

Class of 1990 Hospital Orderlies

While admiring fans look on, Ben Wicks autographs his new book, Nell's War. Mr. Wicks spoke at the St. Catharines Centennial Library on Friday, Nov. 23. His friendly smile, firm handshake, and bright eyes made each person feel he was there just for him or her. St. Catharines will not soon forget the man who introduces himself as "Ben".

Photo by Robbie Craine

Cartoonist Ben Wicks promotes book, shares memories, impresses audience

By ROBBIE CRAINE
Staff Writer

The audience expected to be impressed by Ben Wicks — the author and cartoonist. They left impressed by Ben Wicks — the man.

Mr. Wicks addressed an audience of about 50 people at the St. Catharines Centennial Library Friday, Nov. 23. He was in the city to promote his latest book, Nell's War.

Nell's War is the third book in a series about World War II. The first, No Time to Wave Goodbye, described Mr. Wicks' experiences as a child evacuee in wartime England. Nell's War is the story of Mr. Wicks' mother, Nell, and others who were in London during the Blitz. The series is published by Stoddart.

"It, once again, fills in the gaps that I had as a child," Mr. Wicks said.

Relaxed and smiling, Mr. Wicks shared his memories with the audience. His delightful English accent lent him an extra touch of sincerity. He greeted latecomers as they entered, inviting them to make themselves comfortable. As he talked, English words and phrases such as "bloody", "blimey" and "rang him up" sprinkled his speech.

Mr. Wicks left London on Friday, Sept. 1, 1939. He, and thousands of other children, boarded trains to the countryside. He did not return to his family for over two years. During that time, he stayed with four different families. They, and many others, had volunteered to care for London's children, Mr. Wicks said.

In London's East End, Mr. Wicks' parents and neighbors tried to survive the war. They were the British poor. Whooping cough, tuberculosis, diptheria, — all were common. So was death.

The Londoners slept in the Underground, London's subway. They arrived at 5 p.m. and left at 7 a.m., Mr. Wicks said. They looked around, praying each morning to find their house still standing.

To get first-hand information for Nell's War, Mr. Wicks sent letters to the British newspapers. He received 1,200 responses. He read about nurses putting patients under beds to protect them from bombs and then holding their hands to comfort them. He read about firemen who dug through rubble for 27 hours, looking for a woman, while bombs fell around them. He read about 18 year olds becoming Spitfire pilots. He put these acts of "remarkable courage" in his book.

"I should hope Mom would feel pretty proud; I think she would," Mr. Wicks said.

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FOCUS

Student designs clothes

A new look for the Fashion Club Boutique has opened the door for a Fashion Arts program former graduate. Louise St. Amour, a 20-year-old graduate, who furthered her education in design at the Paris Fashion Institute in Paris, France, will design and create a new line of fashion exclusively for the boutique.

The new line, which bears her name, will be based on the suggestions made by students during a meeting on Monday, Nov. 26.

Carol Timm, program coordinator, asked Mrs. St. Amour if she'd be interested in talking to the students to obtain feedback on what they would like to see in the boutique.

"Anything in black," one student said. "Possibly some floral prints...." The students were also encouraged by Mrs. St. Amour to sketch some of their own designs as possibilities for the line.

"It's a great idea. It's an opportunity for the students to practise what they read about," Mrs. Timm said.

Mrs. St. Amour appeared very confident during the meeting, and was very excited to accept the challenge. "It's a great start for me. I have never created my own line before," she said.

The boutique, which underwent major changes three weeks ago, is reopened. However, the students have had very little luck in finding suitable fashions to be sold. "Slim pickings; because of the recession the retailers are not warehousing the goods," Mrs. Timm said.

Mrs. St. Amour is working on the line. She said she hopes to have some designs on display before the college closes for Christmas break. The cost of the fashions will be based on the garment's production cost. Mrs. St. Amour assured they "definitely won't be over-priced."

The Fashion Club Boutique is open until Dec. 21.

Welland opens Youth Centre to help develop skills, find jobs

The future job prospects of youth and their contribution economically were hailed by Thorold/Welland MPP, Peter Kormos, at the Nov. 23 opening of the Youth and Community Employment Services, Welland chapter.

"The future is the young people who are currently growing up in our community, those who are getting ready to take their place in the workforce, those who are in the age group of 15 to 25. Proper preparation of this group, which experiences much difficulty entering the job market, is key to the future success of this province. And that is why the work of the Youth and Community Employment Services is vital."

YACES, an offshoot of the John Howard Society, has existed since 1976 and currently has four offices serving the Niagara Region.

The program's goal is to assist youths from 15-24 years of age who have experienced barriers to employment. YACES helps youth: develop and refine job search skills, develop occupational life skills, and obtain job placements in the competitive job market or various sponsored training programs.

The program also provides assistance in resume writing, showing clients how to fill out job applications and how to prepare for an interview.

These, and other services, are all free of charge. YACES is financially sponsored by the John Howard Society, the Ministry of Education and other agencies.

"Our success rate with this program runs from about 67 to 74 per cent. It (the success rate) does not drop much lower than 62 per cent. We run various programs here with an even higher success rate," said Neil McMahon, director of YACES.

"Youths are encouraged to drop in at any time and set up an appointment to talk to one of the staff," said Mr. McMahon.

The Welland office saw 140 youths use the various services available, before the official opening.

United Way fights to reach goal

By LORRAINE GIBBS
Staff Writer

It'll be an optimistic campaign for the United Way's four district offices in the Niagara Region.

"The fight is on," Glenn Paton, St. Catharines district chairman, said. "We are really gung-ho and positive about this year's campaign."

St.Catharines has reached 60 per cent of its $2.5 million goal; Niagara Falls, 42 per cent of its $680,000 goal; Fort Erie, 16 per cent of its $300,000 goal and South Niagara, 66 per cent of its $820,251 goal.

"Most funds raised during the campaign come from major companies," Mr. Paton said. Major donors are General Motors employees who raise in excess of $1 million. They have already raised 70 per cent of their goal, a press release from the United Way Oct. 18 stated.

Students in high school and college today are the donors of tomorrow, Mr. Paton said. Car washes and other acitvities are planned to involve students and introduce them to the campaigns and United Way purpose.

The United Way began in Denver, Colorado in 1887 when a group of ministers assisted starving miners. It evolved, being known variously as Community Chest, Red Feather Appeal and United Appeal. It became the United Way in 1968.

United Way member organizations must provide statements of where money received has been spent.

Sometimes the United Way will give demonstration grants, Mr. Paton said. This year the Literacy Council will receive a grant.

"Everyone in the community is affected by the United Way, but not everyone gives," Mr. Paton said.

Money raised within a district, is spent within a district, Mr. Paton said.

All campaigns end by Christmas.

Bud Blood Drop doll, Corpsuckle Cup recognizes donors from two programs

Joining the Corpsuckle Cup is the Bud Blood Drop doll recognizing the program year with the highest number of blood donors rather than the highest percentage of donors, based on student numbers.

The ambulance and emergency care program has walked off with the Corpsuckle Cup for the eighth year with 86.1 per cent of the students (57) donating. This year, the first-year law and security program will be awarded the Bud Blood Drop doll for the 77 students who donated, up from 49 students last year.

The "Bud" doll was created by Jan Potton, Niagara College psychology instructor, as a way of recognizing and showing appreciation to the program year who, as a result of large student numbers not donating, did not have a high enough percentage to win the cup.

"The programs with the large numbers don't have a chance...at getting 90 per cent out. It's too many to organize," Mrs. Potton said.

The "Bud" doll — the new Niagara College blood donor clinic mascot — is shaped as a blood drop and will eventually bear the names of winning programs, starting with the law and security program. "I was very, very impressed with first-year law and security and with their support," Mrs. Potton said.

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Animal friends immortalized by Santa

One whiskered face deserves another and that is why the Welland Humane Society is offering to immortalized your favorite dog, cat, bird or any other well-loved pet with Santa Claus this Christmas in a photograph.

On Dec. 8 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the animal shelter will take Polaroid photos of your pet with Santa Claus for $6. The fee for the photograph includes mounting of the picture and a "Goodie Bag" of food and pet care books. The bag is sponsored by the Whiskas and Pedigree Pal companies, the shelter's secretary, Diane, said. She refused to give her last name.

Beyond getting a unique gift for the family, people who have their pet's photo taken will be helping the Welland Humane Society care for abused and neglected animals. The money will purchase food, pay for veterinary expenses and cover other general grooming costs for animals taken into the shelter, Diane said.

For parents wishing it, children may be photographed with their pet and Santa Claus as long as "his knee is big enough," she said.

Just who the man in the red suit will be remains a mystery until the first pet claws his beard off, Diane said.

Santa's magic for young and old

By ROBERT A. FINLAY
Staff Writer

Ah, the Christmas season. A time of good cheer, colored lights, shiny decorations—and Santa Claus' magic palace.

You've done it. Admit it. There you are, strolling through your favorite mall, when suddenly the unmistakable sounds of jingle bells and Ho-Ho-Ho's alert you to Santa's presence. You shy away at first; you're too old to visit Santa, you tell yourself. Then you reconsider, rationalizing that it's so corny and childish that it might actually be hip.

If you're a parent, the decision has already been made for you—you're going to see Santa. No two ways about it.

So you slowly make your way over, window shopping nonchalantly, not wanting to give away the fact that you're heading for Santa. You sidle up to the wooden railing, pretending to admire the lights while you battle further about actually seeing Santa Claus. You *know* there's no real Saint Nick, but that childhood memory keeps tugging at you, egging you on.

If you're a parent, there's no window shopping, sidling or pretending. Your kids are all over Santa by this time, and you shift nervously from foot to foot as they go through their catalog of horribly expensive gifts to him. Santa's enjoying this, of course; he doesn't have to buy any of those gifts. You do.

Okay. So it's Santa, you say. Big deal. It's a time of the year to do uncharacteristically cheery things. I'll sit on his lap, you say. Just for a minute. You shuffle up, say hello. You sit down, grinning widely as if to say "This is a fraternity joke, I *have* to do this." You rattle off your wish list, bid a Merry Christmas and walk off past the stuffed reindeers and blinking lights.

If you're a parent, you're busily untangling your children from Santa Claus through a hail of high-pitched protestations.

As you walk away from Santa's palace, you reflect on how realistic the guy playing Santa Claus was. No...couldn't be, you say.

Merry Christmas.

Santa Claus' magic palace is watched over by one of his hard working elves. The pavilion, erected by the Seaway Mall, plays host to Santa during the following hours: Weekdays 6-9 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon, 1-4 p.m., 6-9 p.m.; and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Photo by Robert Finlay

Visit from Santa brightens hospital stay

A hospital is no place for a child to spend Christmas. Sometimes, though, a child must be hospitalized. The staff of the St.Catharines General Hospital pediatric unit try to make Christmas a little easier for those children.

"If it's at all possible to discharge, then we will do our best," Karen MacKay, public relations director, said.

The General tries to discharge as many children as possible Christmas Eve. They know the children want to be at home with their families, Mrs.MacKay said. For those children too ill to go home, Christmas comes to them.

Christmas Week, various clubs come to the ward, Community Six (C6), and sing carols for the children. These groups include Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, and church groups.

Other clubs send toys, gifts, and goodies to the children. Last year, one group sent candy canes decorated as reindeers and Toys R Us sent a large box of toys, Mrs.MacKay said.

She said many groups come in with Santa and elves. The Shriners make an annual visit to C6 dressed as clowns and Santa comes with them.

The staff decorate the ward. There are Christmas trees throughout the hospital.

On Christmas Day, the staff give leeway to the families. Depending upon the health of the child, his or her brothers and sisters may come and spend time with them. The General normally does not allow visitors under 14 years old.

"We appreciate and understand that Christmas is a family time," Mrs.Mackay said.

Santa makes a stop on C6, ensuring every child receives the traditonal Christmas visit.

Mrs.MacKay said the C6 ward receives extra attention from the community throughout the year. Nobody wants to see a child in the hospital. At Christmas the attention is overwhelming, she said, as everyone wants to make the holiday special. This attention is always welcome by the staff and the children and their families.

Mrs.MacKay said the number of childern in hospital for Christmas varies from year to year.

Green gift ideas for Christmas

Most people are dreaming of a white and green Christmas— a festive season festooned with fluffy, snow laden branches that expresses a concern for preserving the environment.

In keeping with that spirit, the December issue of Chatelaine magazine offers the following suggestions for earth—saving gifts:

—Membership in an environmental group ($20 to $30)

—An acre of rain forest preserved in the recipient's name ($25 covers certificate, information kit and decal). Write: World Wildlife Fund, 60 St. Clair Ave. East, Ste. 201, Toronto, M4T 1N5.

—Diaper service (about $12 to $15 a week.)

—Hot-water bottle (saves energy—less than $15.)

—Water-saving showerhead ($13-$48)

—Office coffee mug ($2 and up)

Alternatives to wrapping gifts in store-bought paper are also suggested: colored comics, pieces of cloth, paper shopping bags that children can decorate, and old Christmas cards for tags, cut with pinking shears.

Wish tree spreads cheer

A Wish Tree is in the Welland campus college library, decorated with colorful doilies, to help spread Christmas cheer among the Niagara region.

Each doily has a name and an age, with red for girls, blue for boys, and silver and gold for seniors.

The idea was co-ordinated by Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, to provide gifts for those who may not receive one.

To participate, take a doily off the tree and buy an appropriate gift. Wrap the gift; use the doily as a tag, and place it under the tree.

Ms. Maidens suggested departments pick a name or two and pool their funds to buy gifts.

Helene Moscato donated the tree.

The recipients have registered with charitable organizations which have determined their eligibility. The gifts will be picked up before Christmas.

Make someone's Christmas merry — buy a gift for the Wish Tree.

Hort student looks forward to special Xmas traditions

By CATHERINE DENISON
Staff Writer

Most Canadians families share similar Christmas traditions but each has its own special rituals each year.

Catherine Sinesac, a 28-year-old second-year horticultural student will be spending Christmas at her large, four-level, five-bedroom family home in Amhertsburg, south of Windsor.

"There will be 25 (people) in all including nieces and nephews," she said.

Last weekend, her parents made the annual trip to Bothwell's tree farm to cut their own tree, a Scot's pine. On Dec. 16 the whole family congregates for a tree-trimming celebration.

"I'm hoping to go home if I get my landscape assignment done," Catherine said wistfully. "I miss all my nieces and nephews. I haven't seen them for four months."

As a horticultural student, Catherine has more knowledge about trees than most of us. All trees should be tested for dryness by feeling the needles. If they're pliable, it means they haven't been cut too early and dried out in storage, she said. The wise consumer will shake the tree before taking it inside.

The Scot's pine is a very popular tree because it is cheaper than others. However, decorations must be placed on the outside of branches.

The Balsalm fir, from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, has soft, flexible needles suitable for lots of decorations.

The Fraser fir, a very expensive tree, has deep green, soft needles that don't shed easily on carpets and floors.

The White spruce is losing popularity because the needles are very rigid and shed quickly. However, it has a beautiful, symmetrical shape, Catherine said.

Catherine has suggestions for those who live in apartments and don't have room for Christmas trees. Norfolk Island pines and Weeping Figs are potted plants that make excellent substitutes for trees. They are available at garden centres and at grocery stores and hold little decorations well. Cool lights should be used as these trees tend to dry out quickly. They can be incorporated into your collection of house plants after Christmas, she said.

"I have given them as gifts to apartment dwellers... They're a really good idea since some apartments only allow artificial trees," she said.

Catherine supports the idea of cutting trees at a tree farm since they are grown for that purpose, but she disapproves of people who cut down trees in forests.

Catherine attends a 2½ hour Midnight Mass with her family on Christmas Eve which includes a live nativity scene on the altar.

"We go early to get good seats," she said smiling.

Her family opens presents Christmas morning with a fire in the fireplace. The rest of the day they play with the children, sing carols, play the piano and help prepare the dinner, which varies in menu from year to year. Each member contributes a dish. With the help of folding tables, they manage to seat everyone.

Catherine's father makes a skating rink in the backyard each winter so all family members skate during the holidays. They also toboggan at an historic park nearby.

Catherine has a special reason to spend Christmas with her family this year. She's Santa.

Catherine Sinesac, a second-year horticultural student, is reminiscing about spending a good, old Canadian Christmas with her family in Amhertsberg, south of Windsor.

Photo by Catherine Denison

Holiday drinkers beware

Whether at a house party or ringing in the New Year, many holiday festivities have one thing in common: alcohol. The Niagara Regional Police have already started their R.I.D.E. campaign that will run until New Year's Eve. R.I.D.E. means Reduce Impaired Drivers Everywhere.

"We aren't hitting on the fact that we don't want people to drink but just to drink responsibly and don't drink and drive," Constable Don Ferguson, community services unit, said.

The R.I.D.E. program will have four officers travelling to two locations in one evening. "It is an expensive project because officers on overtime, who are paid $150 per hour, are used instead of patrol officers," Const. Ferguson said.

R.I.D.E. keeps a high profile by setting up stops in the early evening from 6-8 p.m. "We like to set up fairly early to let people who are going out know that we are around. Basically we look for a high profile area with a lot of volume traffic," Const. Ferguson said.

A person is legally drunk when his/her alcohol level reaches 80 milligrams per one litre of bottle of blood.

"Alert machines, alcohol evaluation road testers, better known as portable breathalizers are used all year round and during the R.I.D.E. program," Const. Ferguson said.

The road test only takes eight seconds as the person is asked to blow continuously into the machine. One of three lights will give a reading after the test is finished. A pass means the person has below 50 mg of alcohol in their blood and they can go on their way. If the warning light signifies that the person has 50 to 100 mg of alcohol in their blood he/she will be given a 12-hour licence suspension.

Kissing plant a thief

The word mistletoe conjures a Christmas picture of a couple kissing. One word that probably never enters into the picture is parasite, but that is what mistletoe is.

Mistletoe lives on trees and shrubs by robbing food from the host plant. The meaning of the word mistletoe comes from the Greek meaning tree thief.

The mistletoe is an aerial plant spending its entire life in the branches of trees and shrubs; the roots never touch the earth.

How does the plant ascend the tree? Birds eat the mistletoe's white berries and find the seeds so sticky they try to remove them by vigorously wiping their beaks against the tree bark. The seeds stick to the bark where the gluey pulp hardens firmly and roots penetrate into the lifeline of the tree— the sapwood.

The mistletoe weakens the tree, making it susceptible to disease and insects. The tree eventually dies killing the mistletoe.

Greetings to the gulf

Most families will spend the holidays together opening presents, playing in the snow and having turkey dinner; but for the 1,700 men and women in the Persian Gulf, Christmas will be hot, lonely and without the usual spirit.

There are two addresses to send Christmas cards to the troops.

For those on the three Canadian ships, Christmas cards can be sent to CFPO 5071 SMO Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 2X0. Ground troops can be sent cards at CFPO 5004 Belleville, Ontario, K0K 3R0.

Christmas classic takes on new face

By LORRAINE GIBBS
Staff Writer

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" has taken on more faces in the last 150 years than one can count. It has been the victim of movies, television specials, revised books and everything else down to the primary school Christmas recital.

This year the book stores are carrying two spin-offs of the original tale. Both adaptations keep the overall storyline, but both lack in the English tradition while enhancing American culture.

The first, "Mickey's Christmas Carol", is for the very young reader. This book — a hardcover published by Walt Disney, in 1988 and selling for varying prices starting at $6.99 — takes the well-known Disney family and transports it into the characters of Dickens' story. Mickey Mouse is transported into the role of Scrooge's uncomplaining helper, Bob Cratchet; Donald Duck plays the fun-loving nephew Fred and the book includes other Disney favorites such as Jiminy Cricket, Pluto and Goofy.

The second adaptation is a soft-cover comic selling for $4.95, published by Berkley/First Publishing, by artist Joe Staton. This book, for all reading levels, is distributed by Classics Illustrated and is supported by the Literacy Volunteers of America.

Maybe it is my love for the original classic that make this comic so hard to read. For the first three pages I could overlook the format and write it off as something that teenagers might enjoy.

It portrays beautifully the old miserly Scrooge who feels that the poor are better off dead "to decrease the surplus population," or in the workhouses. After the first three pages, however, the book suddenly takes on the image of something one might see in a child's Saturday morning cartoon — those that relive one's worst nightmares. The drawings in the book awaken the true comic — strip lovers' senses while repulsing the lover of the original's artwork.

For a book that was meant to be easily read, the lettering is hard to read in places and leads the reader to guessing what the word was to be. Passages of the narration are taken directly from the original, but most of the dialect is true Americanization.

Joe Staton, who was born in 1948 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, has worked in the comics field for almost two decades and holds "The Green Lantern", "E-Man" and "The Huntress" to his credit.

Of the two books, I would rather pay the $6.99 for the Disney version; where it lacks in telling the true story, it makes up in quality and durability. If nothing else, young people will enjoy the illustrations of their favorite Disney characters.

The original "A Christmas Carol" was published in 1843. The first edition sold out immediately and within six months the book was on its sixth printing. Charles Dickens, who was born on Feb. 7, 1812, in Landport, England, wrote the Victorian classic to expose the abuses on the poor who were placed in poorhouses, orphanages and prisons. It was Dickens' characters that helped to change the system of the English courts.

If you want to buy a copy of the original it will be hard to find. None of six bookstores called were carrying the book. Most stores, however, are carrying the other two books.

If you are in the mood for a quick lesson on great English literature, or want to give your children an example of the original "A Christmas Carol" then these two are acceptable. In the long run the story is the same and Tiny Tim steals the heart of every warm-blooded person. My choice would be to hit a used book store and dig through the piles to find a copy of the original. It would cost less and expand the mind more.

Toy owner offers alternatives

By CATHERINE DENISON
Staff Writer

Most people have toys on their Christmas shopping list for the children in their lives. Patti Ellis, a mother of two and owner of Toys Ahoy, provides convenient answers to the perplexing questions: "What do I buy?" and "Where do I buy it?"

Ms. Ellis describes her 14-month-old business, located in her Port Dalhousie home, as a "shopping alternative" that offers a unique selection of bright, stimulating, and durable toys for newborns to 12-year-olds.

Customers can order from her catalogue by phone and can expect prompt delivery anywhere in St. Catharines. Or they can shop in person at her open houses or at a convenient, pre-arranged time. Ms. Ellis distributes her catalogues in day care centres and health food stores.

"I hate ugly toys that communicate violence. That's what got me into this business ... I've always enjoyed good toys," she said.

Toys Ahoy is a retail affiliate of the Canadian Toy Testing Council (C.T.T.C.). She carries many toys recommended by this organization and by the American Consumers Toy Report. She deals with 25 distributors, mostly European and Canadian.

"The big sellers this year are the magnetic puzzles. They're new on the market and they're selling like crazy," Ms. Ellis said.

Other top sellers include Jacob's Ladder, a traditional toy that has fascinated children for hundreds of years. Stethoscopes and periscopes are popular and inexpensive. Babies love Skwish, a colorful, wooden, moveable ball, she said.

The number one, over-all toy recommended by the American Toy Report is the Brio rail system. It provides the two ingredients young children most enjoy in toys: imaginary play and put-together activities, Ms. Ellis said.

The winner of the 1989 "Awesome" award from C.T.T.C. was the Darda World Class Stunt Race Set which includes two German-built cards with the fastest motors in the world (520 m.p.h. to scale). Tracks require no electricity or batteries and the set allows children to experiment with centrifugal force, inertia, speed and other physical principals, she said.

A big seller for the entire family is the Aerobie, a flying ring that can be thrown much farther than a frisbee. The 1990 Guinness Book of Records includes the world's farthest throw with an Aerobie — 1,257 feet across Niagara Falls.

The most popular price range for gifts is $7 to $20.

Ms. Ellis has harsh words for television advertisers who pitch to children under eight.

"It's not fair for kids. They're a captive audience.... Young children are so gullible...and (they) believe what they see.

For those interested in purchasing alternatives to fad toys, violent toys, ugly toys, battery-operated toys, or toys which will fall apart or lose their appeal soon after their purchase, Ms. Ellis can be reached at 646-5956.

Patti Ellis, owner of Toys Ahoy, located in her Port Dalhousie home, is showing her daughter, Julia, a game called Ant Town, a child's laboratory for the cultivation and study of ants. Patti had an Open House on Sunday for those interested in bright, durable, stimulating toys for the children in their lives. Photo by Catherine Denison

Committee shows signs of progress

The environmental committee meeting Nov. 15 showed signs of progress as a representative of Versa Foods attended and fine paper recycle bins were ordered.

Versa Foods district manager Simon Moon gave a presentation on Versa's commitment to the environment. Mr. Moon said Versa will be selling promotional mugs to deter the use of styrofoam. The 14-ounce mugs will be sold for $2. A coffee credit card will be given to those who purchase a mug. The credit card allows the purchaser to buy nine cups of coffee and to get the 10th free.

Fine paper recycling bins will be placed around the college within two weeks.

Ron Haughton, director of plant and property services, said waste flow studies have not been conducted. The bins' locations will be experimental.

Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, presented a display of bins. Approved sizes range from a 45-gallon container to a regular waste paper basket.

The environmental commitee was established after Policy 3-12 was implemented. The policy states the college will conform to environmentally friendly guidelines with a system of reuse, recovery, recycle and reduction.

Students attending last week's meeting expressed concern about committee operations.

"If the environmental committee is to do anything at all, there has to be more student involvement, not just staff dictating what we're doing," Lorraine Gibbs, second-year journalism student, said.

The date of the next meeting is Dec. 12 at 12:30 p.m. in Lundy 4.

Lung Association begins Christmas drive

By JENNIFER BARTKIW
Staff Writer

The Canadian Lung Association has started its annual Christmas seals campaign hoping to raise $165,000 in the Niagara Region and $4½ million in Ontario.

The campaign, begun Nov. 1 and ending March 31, raises most of the monies in November and December. The campaign has three phases.

In November, 30,000 contributors throughout Niagara received a package from the Lung Association containing a personalized letter, a pledge form, two sheets of Christmas seals and tags and literature on health education.

At November's end, 90,000 packages of unaddressed mail was sent to homes in the region. The third stage occurs in mid-January when a follow up appeal is made to the known donors who haven't contributed yet. An estimated 3½ million homes throughout Ontario will receive seals.

"No matter how small the donation it helps because all small donations add up," Sharon Lottridge, executive director of Niagara Region's Lung Association, said. Christmas seals are to be used on letters and packages but aren't used as postage.

"In 1908 the first Christmas seals campaign started in Canada. In Toronto it raised $6,000 and in Hamilton raised $1,200. Today, Toronto raises $1½ million and Hamilton raises $300,000," Mrs. Lottridge said. "In Niagara $200,000 is usually raised per year on the Christmas seals campaign."

Money was originally spent on research and eventual cure of tuberculosis. Since then the Canadian Lung Association expanded its mandate to other lung diseases and the promotion of lung health.

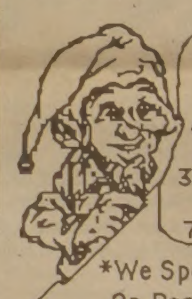
"Each year the design is different and the Canadian Lung Association has a contest for people to submit a design and (if chosen) they can win a prize," Mrs. Lottridge said. This year's designer is Marie-Joelle Driard from Jasper, Alberta. Each of the stamps has meaning: the star, the leading light of the Star of Bethlehem; the heart, the feeling of love during Christmas; the bird, symobolizes peace, harmony and freedom and the candle flame, the eternal flame that burns within us for hope for all humanity.

"The mandate of the Lung Association is to raise money for the research of lung disease and to provide community programs to educate the citizens of Niagara — so most of our money stays locally," Mrs. Lottridge said.

Programs funded by Christmas seals are Lungs for Life school program, asthma programs, Camp Super Kids, Better Breathing programs, smoking cessation programs and mall and health fair displays.

"Our sole source of funding is through private donations. Christmas is a very successful time for the Lung Association," Mrs. Lottridge said.

"We have a very good response rate in Niagara. Most comments are encouraging and some people actually take the time to write letters and send them in with their donations," Mrs. Lottridge said.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FROM THE STAFF AT WELLAND UNIFORMS PLUS

Two co-op graduates recount experiences

Michelle Pugh and Tony Forde recounted their experiences as co-op students to 40 people on Nov. 5 at the Co-op Practitioners Reception held in the Tecumseh Lounge. Staff from Co-operative Education and Career Services, representatives from the Lincoln County and Niagara South Board of Education and guests from the Niagara South Board sipped wine and nibbled on cheese.

"I wouldn't have gotten into Niagara College if I hadn't taken co-op," Mrs. Pugh said.

Mrs. Pugh graduated from the office administration co-op program here in 1984. Her first co-op placement was with the Lincoln County Board of Education; her second placement was in the Co-operative Education Department at Niagara College. Offered a part-time job in the college's department in August, 1984 she has worked full-time since 1986 as a career liaison officer. She now teaches keyboarding part-time.

Co-op work placements improved her organizational skills and her independence, she said.

Mr.Forde, an 18 year old, Grade 12, "A" student from Governor Simcoe School in St. Catharines, was introduced as the top co-op student in the Lincoln County Board last year.

Mr. Forde, student council president, had two placements in law and security this past school year. From January to June, he worked with the Niagara Regional Police force. In the summer, he worked with the Ontario Provincial Police.

"The OPP is where I'm headed," Mr. Forde said. He intends to apply within the next two years, to the OPP's Niagara Falls detachment to be a constable.

"I've always admired police officers," he said.

During his placements, he would direct traffic, run radar and assist in questioning people. He also had access to police files and jokingly said he had "all the goods" on his teachers and friends.

The RCMP Mounted Patrol is well represented by this display at the eighth annual Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls. The festival, which opened Nov. 24, boasts a 28-kilometre display of lights along the Niagara Parkway. The lights will be on view until Feb. 16.

Photo by Richard Douglas

Adamson gets new job

Niagara College has lost its ambulance and emergency care program co-ordinator to the Welland County General Hospital. Frank S. Adamson has been appointed the hospital's vice-president in charge of planning and professional services. He assumed his duties Nov. 19.

Mr. Adamson has been a member of the Niagara District Health Council for the past six years and was the chairman of the council's hospital redevelopment task force. Since joining the council in 1984, Mr. Adamson has served on its emergency health services committee, the base hospital selection task force and the disaster planning committee.

Previously, Mr. Adamson was the secretary-treasurer of the Regional Niagara pre-hospital emergency care committee and the executive director of Heart Niagara. He now serves as Heart Niagara's president.

Excellence pays off

Excellence on the job paid off for a journalism graduate who received a $500 cash award and a plaque at Seneca College Oct. 2.

Renata Dinnocenzo, 27, is liaison representative at Seneca College.

Miss Dinnocenzo graduated from Niagara's Journalism-Print program in 1984 and has been employed at Seneca College since January 1989.

"Writing projects and expectations of the teachers during my time at Niagara prepared me well for meeting challenges in the world of work," Miss Dinnocenzo said. "Even though the program focuses on preparing students for newspaper work, the skills learned can be transferred to other positions in the communications field."

Vickie Milligan, chairman high school liaison department at Seneca College, said, "I think it is important to note that Renata was selected by her peers. She was one of four support staff winners."

Seneca College's second annual employee excellence awards were given to administration, faculty and support staff who demonstrated excellence on the job.

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Sports

Men's volleyball team loses tournament

The Niagara Knights volleyball team lost three games during a tournament held at Canadore College, on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, in North Bay. The Knights faced Georgian, Sault, Cambrian, and host Canadore.

Niagara's only victory came against Sault College. The Knights beat Sault 15-10 and 15-6. In the first game of the match Shane Holland, scored six consecutive points to break a 5-5 tie with Sault. Holland is still playing hurt and put forth a good effort said Coach Ray Sarkis.

Georgian College defeated the Knights in a game that saw 25 spikes score for Georgian. The Knights won the second game of the match by 15-7, but could not carry that momentum over to the third and deciding game.

Host, Canador College, also defeated the Knights in three games. The second game saw Vahid Amini spike and score points for Niagara in the only win of that match.

Niagara faced top-ranked Cambrian College as their last opponents in the tournament. The Knights came out strong in the first game winning by 15-11.

"Cambrian had a long rest. They played us and that seemed to hurt them in the first game," Coach Sarkis said.

Cambrian, one of the top teams in the country, defeated the Knights by scores of 15-1, 15-3.

Coach Sarkis blamed the losses on the team not following the game plans and on poor officiating. "The guys were worried about whether or not points would count. The officials weren't making calls," Coach Sarkis said.

On a more positive note, Coach Sarkis had success in recruiting possible players for next year. Sarkis attended an OFSSA volleyball tournament recently to find players.

"I found four kids who say they are definitely coming to Niagara next year. Nine kids responded to my inquiries as to the possibility of coming to Niagara next year. If I get those players we'll have a very strong volleyball program."

Years of service to be honored

A Niagara College retirement dinner will honor 402 years of employee service, Dec. 13.

The dinner, sponsored by the Board of Governors, will recognize the service of 21 employees who retired in 1990.

The dinner will be held in the staff dining room in the Black Walnut Building.

Errors spell loss

Female Knights play host to OCAA volleyball tourney

By Neville Lewis
Staff Writer

Poor spirit and many errors spelled the Niagara College women's volleyball team's demise in an OCAA tournament held Nov. 24-25.

The Knights played host to eight teams participating in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association weekend games. The home team managed to win only one set and lost all five matches by wide margins. Coach Frank Napoli said the team lapsed after the first game against Toronto's George Brown. In the other games the expected momentum was lost. There was no renewal of spirit, he said. "We missed 32 serves for the morning (of the second day) which could have possibly been 32 points if you really think about it."

After starting out with a good show in their first match on Friday afternoon, the team took a beating from an equally strong offence and defence put on by George Brown. Niagara could not find any means to stop the "Sarah Charles" attack.

Sarah, in most players' and coaches' opinion the most outstanding player of the tournament, launched a volley of well placed spikes and tips and helped to set up numerous plays resulting in George Brown's 15-9 and 15-3 victories over Niagara.

From there, it was downhill all the way for the Niagara women. They lost to Canadore 15-3 in the first set. Despite a better performance in the second set and Jennifer McCabe's undying spirit, it was too late. The Knights lost 15-6 to close the first day's games.

Perhaps the Knights were yet to awaken from sleep when they went on court for the 9 a.m. Saturday morning game. Far from being one of the better teams with two wins and two losses, the Royal Military College thrashed Niagara 15-0, 15-6. The host team's best show came against Sir Sanford Fleming when they went under in three sets 15-10, 7-15 and 6-15. In the final match, Cambrian beat Niagara 15-6, 15-7.

Former captain Andy Knox was not happy with the team's performance but showed little disappointment. "I think it could have been a lot better. Right now we're not communicating with each other. That's the big problem," she said.

"It's not as if we can't win. We've beaten the last team we played (Canadore) before. We can do it (win). I don't know what it is but how can we get our act together if people who are going to play are not here at practices? Our team plays more as an individual and not as a team."

An individual's effort, not team play, caused the team's poor performance. Players were more concerned with getting the ball over the net than the execution of well placed, point-winning tips or spikes. Too often the holes in the opponents defence were bypassed for power plays that resulted in side-outs.

In other situations, players appeared to be going through the motions. Passes which could have been easily volleyed to the opponents side were frequently missed due to a player's hesitation and uncertain rotations. Sometimes, a back-player had to dive across the floor to get a pass a middle-player should have picked up. Rarely would the ball go over the net; it went either under the net or remained in Niagara's half.

However, some individuals tried to keep Niagara in the running. Jennifer McCabe was strong offensively and defensively with most of the Knight's better passes. Beth Miller made an effort to rally the team behind her power play. Often she came in too early or a bit late for a hit. Captain Georgina Seburn played a very good defence.

Overall, Niagara lacks a single player, such as George Brown's Sarah, who can carry the team emotionally and focus its efforts.

The Niagara women showed no motivation; a simple error appeared as a major blunder. The other teams, the five Niagara played as well as Mohawk, Centennial and Fanshawe, would treat it as a trifle and exchange handshakes and a point-scoring play would be rewarded with many "high-fives."

The Knights' performance was weakened by the winless engagement in Ottawa the previous weekend. Nevertheless, too much was given up on what should have been used to the home team's advantage. There were too many mis-serves, bad passes and and absence of communication.

"I think we'll do well if we play together: play as one and not six individuals. Everyone has to have the same attitude," Captain Georgina said.

Badminton: have a birdie

Niagara College's badminton club is making a name for itself.

The team is competing in three leagues this year. In addition to regular Ontario College Athletics Association games, the Niagara team is participating in the Niagara and District Badminton League and the "cream of the crop" Ontario Badminton Association League.

Coach Dave Carpenter said he has a very inexperienced team but he is confident improvement is not far from being achieved. "The team is fresh out of high school. They have very little in the way of instruction. With just six weeks of coaching they are doing excellent," he said.

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WANTED: The Welland Branch of The Canadian Red Cross Society would appreciate the donation of a rolodex for the office. A receipt can be given for income tax purposes. See Gene Maltais in S210 (Ext. 597) or call the office at 734-4283.

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'Ran out of gas'

College Knights take beating in first inter-collegiate game

The Niagara College men's basketball team got its first real taste of inter-collegiate play when it met defeat in an exhibition game Dec.4.

The Knights travelled to Hamilton to take on the Redeemer College Royals and lost 81-75 before a very supportive home crowd. Going into the second and final period, the Knights were up 37-34. They maintained their lead for another five minutes of play but quickly lost it to the Royals who opened up a stronger show. The Knights fought back but failed to overcome the more experienced team on its home turf.

"We played one half of college basketball and one half of high school," Coach Todd Stevens said referring to the first half where the Knights excelled over a team that was not necessarily much better talented and the second half where they went into a slump.

"We went from seven up to five down in a minute and twenty-one seconds."

Led by "colorful" point-guard, Rod Vellinga and center, Al Van Donkersgoed, the Royals launched their offensive and defensive attacks. Two quick three-pointers by Jon Bremmer off the point-guard's assists brought them within sight of a win. Jon was on a roll after nailing three-pointers in the first half. From there, it became difficult to stop the Royals propelled by the homecrowd's yells.

The Knights made a valiant effort in a comeback attempt. Most outstanding was Rick Sinclair whose 29 points led all scorers. The Knights were playing without a point-guard. This proved a disadvantage as Rick had to take the ball up and down the court leaving him little opportunity to execute down low as expected.

Coming off the bench at small forward, Merv Wrighton played well offensively and defensively. His hands, quite often, seemed to appear from nowhere to snap a rebound. He had 15 points. Jason Bray netted eight of the Knights' 75.

Down by 12 points, the Niagara men gave up several easy opportunities for fancy play while other baskets were lost to simple errors in the final minutes. "Mentally, we ran out of gas," Coach Stevens said.

However, the Knights can only learn from their mistakes. They are a team in the remaking after being out of college competition for several years. "Lack of discipline killed us in the second (half)," the coach said. That should be overcome with experience which it is hoped would lead to wins. "It will come," Coach Stevens said.

Chinese educators tour Niagara College facilities

Five educators from the People's Republic of China toured Niagara College's facilities, including the Hospitality and Tourism Centre, as they gathered information on curricula, and equipment for technical and vocational programs Nov. 23.

The group was met by John Saso, college president; George W. Repar, director of planning, research and development; Dennis Malone, director of English, articulation and international education and Hugo Bessems, international student advisor.

President Saso welcomed the elite delegation and presented a gift pictorial book of Canada.

Through interpreter Marianne Tang, of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Chen Dixian, deputy director for the Hebei Provincial Education, thanked Niagara College's administration for the gift. On behalf of the group, he presented a fabric wall hanging depicting Chinese art forms.

Representatives of the Ontario Colleges International Committee Western region met the delegates on campus. The visit provided communication linkage between China and Fanshawe, Mohawk and Conestoga Colleges.

The delegation spent 10 days in Canada touring institutions in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ottawa and Toronto.

At the Niagara Falls Centre director David Davies welcomed the guests to the campus and to a luncheon prepared by food management students.

Zhou Pinliang, head of technical and vocational education, Sichaun provincial education commission, said, "...cooking in Sichaun is very well known and is very good. I would like to be a matchmaker in getting a linkage between Niagara's food beverage course and tourism with our school in Sichaun.

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Best Wishes of the holiday season and the New Year to all at Niagara College

Phyllis Barnatt,
Journalism-Print
Professor

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Reward offered to flush phantom

He (or she) lurks in our hallways. He looks like everyone else. He may be sitting next to you right now. Though he may appear the same, he is different; he is The Phantom of the Washroom.

The phantom's antics have caused such concern a $50 reward is being offered by the Student Administrative Council and plant and property services for information on his (or her) identity.

Since the school year's start, washrooms for both genders in the Black Walnut and Mackenzie buildings have been plagued by this mysterious phantom. This person is in the habit of booby-trapping the toilets in these facilities so the user is soaked by a spray of water when the commode is flushed.

"It's happened three or four times," Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, said. The women's washroom in the Black Walnut building was the first to be tampered with after the school's first pub this year.

"Somebody is taking a wrench and loosening a metal collar around the base of the toilets," Ms. Maidens said. She approached SAC to contribute half the reward because of the first occurrance during the pub.

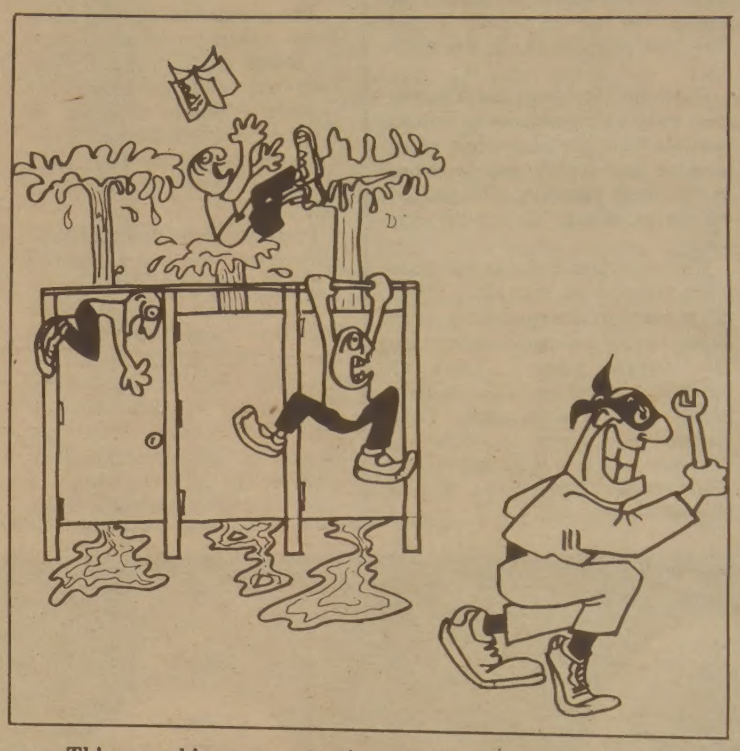
In a recent case, Ms. Maidens said she feels the phantom has begun to set traps for the college's custodial help. A note was left on the outside of a stall complaining a toilet was non-operational. When the custodian attempted to check the commode by flushing it, he found the phantom had scored a new victim.

"It was obviously a set-up. He got totally soaked," Ms. Maidens said.

Ken Cosgrove, co-ordinator of the fine arts program, has had several students fall prey to the phantom.

"It has its funny side, but it's not funny," he said. The students were forced to bear the inconvenience of it. "People do not anticipate coming to college with a change of clothes," he said.

He said it may also become dangerous with water on the bathroom floor. "Somebody could (slip and) break their neck."



This graphic representation of the Phantom of the Washroom was provided by the Fine Arts Program.

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